



TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Volume 40

The Torrance Police Department  
presents

## ***A Community Safety Training Day***

WHEN: Saturday, April 25th, 2009  
Registration / Check-in from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

WHERE: South High School  
4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance CA 90505

Training Topics: Internet Safety - How to protect your child from predators  
Map Your Neighborhood (Taking Neighborhood Watch to the next level)  
Residential Burglaries  
Elder Abuse / Scams  
Auto Theft - Current crime trends  
Traffic

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops and a Continental Breakfast hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is 45 minutes in length with a chance to attend four different safety workshop topics. The workshops will be taught by Torrance Police Officers. You may register online at [www.torrancepd.org](http://www.torrancepd.org) or contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 200 people who register. Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

Schedule:	8:00 - 8:30 AM	Check-in / Continental Breakfast
	8:30 - 9:00 AM	Introduction
	9:00 - 9:45 AM	Workshop Session
	9:45 - 10:30 AM	Workshop Session
	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Workshop Session
	11:15 - 12:00 PM	Workshop Session
	12:00 - 12:30 PM	Question & Answer Period

This is the third of many "Safety Training Workshops" to be taught at venues within the City of Torrance, with the goal of teaching people how to protect their loved ones and property. The safety topics will be taught by police officers with expertise in their particular subject matter. For further information, please call the Torrance Police Department's Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or 6392.



## SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

### *Bike Safety*

#### Check your equipment:



Wear a properly fitted helmet.



Make sure your tires are inflated properly and that your brakes work.



Make sure your bike is at the correct height. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended.

#### See, be seen; hear, and be heard



Get a headlight and a rear light, hopefully one that flashes.



Get a horn. Wear bright clothing during the day, reflective clothing at night.



No headphones.

### Safe Street Riding



#### **Obey traffic signs and signals .**

Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.



**Go with the traffic flow.** Ride in the same direction as other vehicles. Ride in areas of slow traffic so you can keep up.



**Don't pass on the right** - Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.



**Scan the road behind you** - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.



**Be predictable.** Ride in a straight line and signal your moves to others (hand signals, voice when passing pedestrians, horn when warning backing vehicle



**Take up the whole lane** by riding in the middle of the lane. And stop behind a car, never to the right of one where it might make a turn in front of you because you were in its blind spot.



**Choose the best way to turn left** - There are two choices: (1) Like an auto: signal to move into the left turn lane and then turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk.



**Make eye contact with drivers** - Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important with any driver which might pose a threat to your safety.



## TEENAGE DRIVERS

If you are under 18 years old and at least 15 ½ years old, you can apply for a provisional driver license. The first step to getting your license is to get your instruction permit. Because you are under 18, your permit and driver license are called, "Provisional." This means you have additional restrictions placed on your permit and driver license that adults (18 and over) do not have.

Your provisional instruction permit will have the following restrictions.

- You must obey the traffic laws
- You must drive without a collision
- You must drive with your parent, guardian, spouse, or an adult 25 years of age or older, who has a valid California driver license.
- You must hold your permit for six months **before** you can take your driving test to get your driver license.

#### **How to apply for a permit if you are under 18**

Complete and submit an original application form DL 44.

Provide your social security number on the DL 44. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office.

Have both of your parents' or guardians' signatures on the DL 44 application form.



For additional information log on to: [http://dmv.ca.gov/teenweb/permit\\_btn1/apply.htm](http://dmv.ca.gov/teenweb/permit_btn1/apply.htm)

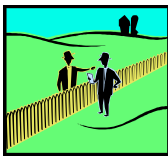
## FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION

The following are scams that have affected Torrance residents over the last couple of months:



**Jury Duty Scam:** The suspect calls the victim and tells them that they missed a jury duty assignment and they have been fined and can go to jail unless they pay the fine with a credit card right now.

**The Nephew Scam:** The suspect contacts an elder person and pretends to be a nephew/ niece who has car problems, lost his/her wallet, or needs money right away. The elder sends the money believing that it is his nephew or niece that needs help.



**New Neighbor Scam:** The suspect knocks on the door and says he is the new neighbor that lives on the back side of their property. He wants to build a new fence and he will pay for everything but needs to look in the back yard. The victim wants to be nice since it is a new neighbor and walks him back to the rear yard. While they are in the rear, his accomplice is in the house removing property, jewelry, currency and credit cards/check books.

**Unsolicited Phone Calls :** We have received a number of calls from residents stating they are receiving unsolicited phone calls asking for their personal bank and/or credit card information.



Citizens are reminded to not give out any personal information over the phone unless you initiate the contact. We have seen recent incidents of telephone scams used to obtain personal information such as criminals posing as creditors (banks/credit card companies) and court officers stating there is a warrant for your arrest from a delinquent jury-duty notice. The bottom line is DO NOT give out your personal information over the phone unless you called the person and are sure of who you are talking to or can verify the validity of the caller by asking for a callback number then check the phonebook and/or bank statements before calling the number.

For further safety tips, check the Torrance Police Department website at [www.torrancepd.org](http://www.torrancepd.org). The Torrance Police also offer Community Safety Training seminars that are free of charge and open to all Torrance residents. These seminars cover a wide range of safety related information and are offered on a quarterly basis.

### MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM



The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program empowers neighborhoods to prepare for emergencies and disaster situations. The program helps save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduces property damage. In addition, working together as a team and contributing as an individual develops stronger communities and improves the quality of life in the community.

The Torrance Police Department adopted this program in early 2008 as the official disaster prep training program for use in conjunction with the Neighborhood Watch program. In order to receive this training, participants must first be part of an established, active Neighborhood Watch Program in the City of Torrance. To find out more about the Neighborhood Watch Program, contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6392. If your Neighborhood Watch group has been trained in the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program and you would like to have a "practice" drill, please contact Community Affairs.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Page 4



### TIP - A - COP

On March 19th, Torrance Police Department officers shared their time and talents to raise money for Special Olympics. Officers raised **\$5,172.00** in just four hours!!!

A special thanks to **The Elephant Bar**, our host restaurant. Their professional staff made this another wonderful experience.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported this worthwhile event.



Our next Tip- A-Cop will be on Thursday April 16th at **Claim Jumper** (Torrance Crossroads).

If you would like more information about this event, please contact Services Officer Luz Aceves, Torrance Police Department Community Affairs Division, (310) 618-6392.

## FACTS ABOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics Southern California has been changing lives through the power of sport for 40 years.

Founded in 1969 by Olympic decathlon gold medalist Rafer Johnson, Special Olympics Southern California offers year-round sports training programs and competitions for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization. The Southern California Chapter covers a geographic region encompassing 11 counties and extends from Bakersfield to San Diego.

Special Olympics Programs are offered at no cost to the athletes and their families. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image.

The Special Olympics movement transforms communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, accept and include people with intellectual disabilities and celebrate the similarities common to all people.

Special Olympics athletes compete in categories based on gender, age and ability level. All Special Olympics activities reflect the values, standards, traditions, ceremonies and events embodied in the modern Olympic movement. These activities have been broadened and enriched to celebrate the moral and spiritual qualities of persons with intellectual disabilities to enhance their dignity and self-esteem.

Special Olympics has a 95% brand recognition within the U.S., and 83 cents of every dollar Special Olympics Southern California raises goes directly to programs.

**Number of Participants:** 13,000 Athletes 15,000 Coaches and Volunteers. Nearly 3 million Special Olympics athletes worldwide

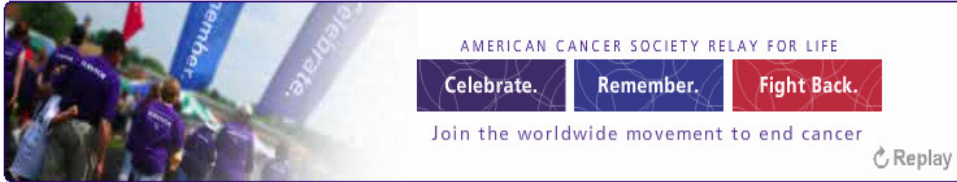
**Sports Offered** Special Olympics Southern California offers 12 sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, Floor Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball

**For more information on Special Olympics, visit** [www.sosc.org](http://www.sosc.org)

*Let me win. But if I cannot win,  
let me be brave in the attempt.*  
— Athlete Oath







**Relay for Life of Torrance  
Wilson Park  
2200 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501**



One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life® unites communities across the country each year to **celebrate** the lives of those who have battled cancer, **remember** loved ones lost, and **fight back** against a disease that takes too much.

This year marks the beginning of our celebration of 25 years of Relay For Life®. Won't you join us this year and be a part of Relay? Help us mark this milestone and celebrate the successes we've achieved together during the last 25 years.

It's one of the most inspirational moments at the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. The Luminaria ceremony offers everyone at Relay the opportunity to pay tribute to those who have faced cancer. Some celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer and have lived to tell their stories. Many remember the lives of those who have been lost to this disease. All represent someone special who has been profoundly affected by cancer and the family and friends who continue to fight back in their honor.

Your luminaria donation to the American Cancer Society will light the path for those walking through the night to fight back against cancer.



**Torrance Relay for Life asks that you donate a minimum of \$15.00 for the purchase of a Luminaria Bag in honor or memory of your loved ones. Contact: Kristine Smearer at Torrance Police Department.**

**[ksmearer@torrnet.com](mailto:ksmearer@torrnet.com) Luminaria Forms are available from Kristine or Lu Clayton**

**or, make a donation on line to the Torrance PD Friends & Family at the link below:**

**[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr\\_id=13883&team\\_id=401542](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=13883&team_id=401542)**

**We need volunteers ..... please, can YOU help?**

